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# UD Researcher Testifies to the National Transportation Safety Board

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# *The University of Dayton*

## *News Release*

### UD RESEARCHER TESTIFIES TO THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

DAYTON, Ohio, September 22, 1982 -- Heavy rain alone can cause an aircraft to stall and crash says University of Dayton researcher James Luers. Luers testified before the National Transportation Safety Board in hearings last week in New Orleans to determine the cause of the Pan American World Airways jetliner crash that killed 154 people. Luers was subpoenaed to the hearings to discuss his heavy rain simulation project and its effects on the aerodynamic qualities of airplanes.

Luers, a senior research scientist at the UD Research Institute, and Patrick Haines, a research meteorologist, have been investigating their heavy rain theory for more than 2 1/2 years. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) originally sponsored the work of Luers and Haines. Recently, the Volunteers in Service to Aviation Safety (VISTAS) commissioned the UD Research Institute to continue the investigation.

The study will focus on the recent air crash in New Orleans, as well as previous accidents such as the Eastern 066 accident at JFK in 1975 and the Allegheny Philadelphia accident in 1976. This research program will provide definite conclusions concerning the influence of heavy rain on wind-shear-attributed accidents, and to investigate proper pilot procedures for flight in heavy rain.

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The UD Research Institute is currently constructing a unique rain tunnel that will allow the two scientists to simulate a heavy-rain environment. This tunnel will be one of the most sophisticated in the country and will help to validate the Luers and Haines theory.

There will be a press conference on Friday, September 24 at 10:30 a.m. in the Kettering Laboratory Room 442. Luers and Haines will be available to discuss their theory and to answer questions about their research. For more information contact Ro Nita Hawes, University Communications, 229-3241.